

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
TORRANCE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Parks and Recreation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:01 p.m. on Wednesday, May 12, 2010, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Gilbert, Hays, Mayeda, Robbins, Taniguchi, and Chairperson Ning.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Community Services Director Jones, Senior Business Manager Minter, and Park Services Manager Carson.

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner Hays led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gilbert moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Robbins seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2010**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gilbert moved for the approval of the April 14, 2010 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Robbins seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1**

Senior Business Manager Minter announced the resignation of Parks and Recreation Commissioner Tom Hazell.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**7A. SUPPORT FOR PROPOSAL BY NATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG DEPENDENCE OF SOUTH BAY TO PROHIBIT SMOKING AT CITY PARKS**

Community Services Director Jones provided background on the item and welcomed Christin Taylor-Antonio and Barbara DeVico, National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of the South Bay (NCADDSB). He noted that a "Letter of Support" prohibiting smoking at City parks was included in agenda materials for the Commission's consideration.

Ms. Taylor-Antonio provided results of ten City park clean-ups between April 4, 2009 and November 7, 2009: 9,623 pieces of tobacco litter. She stated that over 1,400 surveys were conducted at Torrance parks between July 2008 and June 2009 and that results indicated that 97.3% of respondents would support a total ban of smoking at Torrance parks.

Commissioner Robbins stated that he supports the concept but expressed concern that it would be another law that is not enforced.

Community Services Director Jones responded that it would be enforceable but that the probability of citations being issued was slim. He stated that the proposal makes sense and stressed the importance of educating the community about the dangers of smoking and second-hand smoke. He noted that funds for signage would probably be made available through a Los Angeles County grant and that the City of Redondo Beach has banned smoking in beaches and parks.

Chairperson Ning expressed support for more proactive verbiage on signage at parks and Community Services Director Jones responded that the signage would be generic but pamphlets or fliers could be distributed at events.

Commissioner Hays stated that it would provide an opportunity for education and communication among park users even if the City chooses not to enforce the ordinance.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Taniguchi moved to support the proposal to prohibit smoking at any parks within the City of Torrance. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**7B. CONTINUE DISCUSSION ON NAMING OPTIONS FOR THE LOMITA CORRIDOR PARK PROJECT**

Commissioners Mayeda and Hays presented several names for consideration.

Senior Business Manager distributed supplemental material showing results of the Name the Park! contest conducted at Arnold Elementary, Seaside Elementary, and Calle Mayor Middle School, noting that a list of suggested names from the three schools was included in Attachment B. He stated that Commissioners could recommend a name or names at this meeting or wait until the June 9, 2010 Commission meeting, adding that a recommendation should be made before the tile art project takes place in late June.

June Lee, Vanderhill Road, submitted a petition with 88 signatures expressing support for naming the park Joseph, Matt, and Micah Park in honor of the three soldiers killed within 11 months of each other and who attended Seaside Elementary, Calle Mayor Middle School, and South High School.

Commissioner Taniguchi suggested selecting a list of names at the June meeting for recommendation to City Council.

Commissioner Robbins suggested referring the item to the Open Space Committee, consisting of Commissioners Gilbert and Hays.

Chairperson Ning volunteered to temporarily join the Open Space Committee so that there would be three members. He suggested that the Committee meet in two

weeks and bring back a list of not to exceed five names for consideration at the June Commission meeting.

Commissioner Mayeda suggested that all proposed names be placed in alphabetical order on one sheet. He received clarification that further recommendations could be submitted through staff liaison before the Open Space Committee meeting.

Tom Dryer, Delos Drive, suggested that the Committee select a few names submitted by each school and include them in the final list.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Robbins moved that the Open Space Committee select and bring back to the June 9, 2010 Commission meeting a list of preferably no more than five names for the Lomita Corridor Park Project. Commissioner Hays seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **8A. CITY BUDGET UPDATE**

Senior Business Manager Minter provided a PowerPoint presentation on the City's Budget status that was presented by the City Manager office to all City Departments. He distributed a general overview of the City Budget and challenges in FY 2009-10 and 2010-11. He described major revenue sources—Utility User's Tax, Sales Tax, Property Tax, Occupancy, and Business License—and noted that revenue from Sales Tax and Utility User's Tax has significantly decreased while Property Tax remains consistent. He reported a projected deficit of \$8 million for 2009-10 and \$9 million for 2010-11. He stated that the City has already taken steps to reduce the 2009-10 deficit by not filling vacant positions in order to balance the budget by June 30, 2010. He explained that Torrance is in a better position than many other cities because it still has a reserve account.

He stated that all Departments are being asked submit scenarios for potential efficiencies, reductions, and revenue opportunities to meet the shortfall, with the goal of trying not to impact the public or staff. He briefly discussed what the Library and Park Services Divisions are proposing and noted that a decrease in printed material City-wide has saved 5 million sheets of paper. He stated that a consultant has been hired to perform a market rate analysis to identify the average market rate for classes and sports programs.

Commissioner Robbins related his observation that as we "green" our environment, the revenue from Utility User's Tax will continue to decrease. In response to his inquiry, Community Services Director Jones responded that PERS has re-established a different format for spreading the debt service and the impact is not as large as anticipated.

Community Services Director Jones stated that the goal of the City is to minimize impacts to the community and employees. He noted that the Community Services Department is the main Department that impacts the community in everything it does and that they are trying to propose a budget scenario that the community will understand. He encouraged Commissioners to attend Budget Workshops on May 25 and June 15, 2010.

In response to Chairperson Ning's inquiry, he explained reasons why it would be better to close the Library on Sundays than a different day of the week.

**9. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**9A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Robbins reported that the Facilities Committee met on May 12, 2010 to plan the July 12, 2010 Parks and Recreation Commission Awards dinner, adding that candidates have been selected to receive awards.

**9B. GRANTS COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Gilbert reported that the Grants Committee plans to meet on May 17, 2010 to discuss monitoring assignments and applications for next year.

**9C. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Gilbert reported that the Open Space Committee will meet in two weeks to discuss naming opportunities for the Lomita Corridor Park Project.

**9D. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Has not met.

**10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY**

**10A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION**

Senior Business Manager Minter noted that the Administrative Services Division Report for April 2010 was included in agenda packets. He encouraged Commissioners to make suggestions for budget reductions and indicated that possible proposals might be to reduce or eliminate the Grants Program or to charge non-profit organizations for use of park facilities. He stated that the Seasons guide has been mailed out.

On behalf of the Sister Cities Association, Commissioner Taniguchi expressed appreciation to the Park Rangers and Park Services for their assistance at the Bunka Sai Japanese Cultural Festival.

**10B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION**

Park Services Manager Carson noted that the Park Services Division Report for April 2010 was included in agenda materials. He reported that the rotunda at El Retiro Park would be complete at the end of May 2010 and discussed upcoming regulations on pesticides that will impact their ability to control the gopher population throughout the parks.

**10C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION**

Community Services Director Jones noted that the Recreation Services Division Report for April 2010 was included in agenda packets.

Responding to an inquiry by Commissioner Robbins regarding Madrona Marsh tree damage, he stated that they have had to remove several willows. He noted that the biggest problem that they are facing is tulle clearing for mosquito abatement as required by Vector Control.

**11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #2**

**11A.** Commissioner Taniguchi stated that she enjoyed the Senior Faire.

**11B.** Commissioners Gilbert, Robbins, and Chairperson Ning stated that they hope that funding for the Grants Program does not get cut.

**11C.** Commissioner Mayeda stated that he enjoyed visits to La Paloma, La Romeria, and the new Lomita-Anza Park.

**11D.** Chairperson Ning encouraged Commissioners to volunteer to participate in the Youth Council selection process scheduled for June 16-17, 2010.

**11E.** Senior Business Manager Minter stated that the Mayor is trying to find a funding source for an electronic marquee at the corner of Madrona Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard, adding that the chain link fencing is being replaced with wrought iron.

**11F.** Community Services Director Jones announced that the frog sculpture "Dreaming of the Kiss" was installed today at Miramar Park and that there was a job walk for the Wilson Park Pond Renovation on May 7, 2010.

**11G.** June Lee, Vanderhill Road, expressed appreciation to the City for cleaning up and lighting the stairway between Vanderhill Road and Bindewald Road.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:42 p.m., Commissioner Gilbert moved to adjourn the meeting to June 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Hays seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Ning so ordered.

Approved as Submitted June 9, 2010 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
---